

EMBA 2011-04-09_1

Board 20
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 9 8 5 3 2 ♥ 10 ♦ A 10 8 5 ♣ J 8 7	♠ J 10 ♥ K J 7 6 5 4 ♦ J 7 4 ♣ 4 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> ♠ A K 4 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ K Q 9 6 ♣ Q 9 5	♠ Q 7 6 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ 3 2 ♣ A K 10 6 2	
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EW 2♠; EW 1N; EW 2♣; NS 1♥; E 1♦

West	North	East	South
<i>Dick Lee</i>	<i>Ms. Hospitality</i>	<i>Pete Matthews</i>	<i>Ms. Hospitality (not)</i>
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass
2♠ by East			

South lead the ♦6 - diabolical! I naturally ducked, hoping to get a ruff in hand. After the ♦J won, the tournament hospitality committee chair made a nasty switch to the ♠J. I might have survived by covering the first round, but I tried the second. South drew the third round of trump and played the ♦K. I can still come home by finessing in hearts, but a successful club hook would take the rest of the tricks. That's what I did, down 1.

In hindsight, it might have been correct to finesse in hearts (not just because we can see it in the North hand). On a more normal lead of the ♦K, I would have time to get a ruff in hand - unless South cleared trumps, which would also cost a trick. So a winning club finesse cannot produce a good board - compared to other 2♠ contracts. So the apparently inferior heart finesse, or playing for the drop in clubs (unblocking the ♣J), is indicated.

On the other hand, many Norths would open 2♥. That's what happened when I asked the GIB program to bid the hand. The final contract then would probably be 2NT (overcall) or 3♠ (via transfer), or 3NT (GIB's bidding is not so hot). So our result may have been OK.

- Pete Matthews